

Agency Information

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Document Information

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SUBJECTS :

JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA
THEFT OF 318 WEAPONS, 16 BLANKETS, ONE CARBINE
RANK, OHIO NA

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CECIL HONDOURA. No long distance telephone calls from this town to Miami during the pertinent period could be found. HONDOURA has yet to be identified.

Miami note report of SA KENNETH C. MOORE, 11/22/57, at Miami, captioned "CHESTER ZOCHOWSKI, was.; JOSEPH MEROLA, was.; ITSP - MAJOR THEFT." Miami file (87-6932), page 7 and 8, which sets forth background information re PESSALANO and results of interview with him on 10/3/57. It is noted in this interview, PESSALANO admitted he was born and raised in New Kensington, Pa., and grew up with the MANNARINO brothers. He said during airplane flight from Miami to Pittsburgh, he became acquainted with JOE MEROLA, a fellow passenger, who also lived in Miami. He said MEROLA told him that he too knew the MANNARINOS.

Regarding the CECIL HONDOURA mentioned by PESSALANO, it is noted that during the investigation of the MANNARINO brothers by Pittsburgh, ARTHUR NEWMAN, PCI, contacted by Legat, Havana, Cuba, advised that in the past the MANNARINO brothers had shipped slot machines into Cuba, probably through ALBERTO ARDURA, aka. Alberto Ardura Moya, who PCI described as the "bag" man for ROBERTO FERNANDEZ MIRANDA, brother-in-law of Cuban President FULGENCIO BATISTA. PCI reported that since MIRANDA received 50% of the "take" from all slot machines operating in Cuba, ARDURA is normally the individual to whom slot machines are exported from the United States. PCI advised this is done by ARDURA to insure control of slot machines. ~~(u)~~

The above is mentioned in view of the similarity of names between ARDURA and HONDOURA and should be considered when PESSALANO is re-interviewed.

LEADS

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte requested to expedite investigation set forth in Pittsburgh airtel to Savannah, 11/12/58.

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